

APRIL PYRON

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 15, 2017*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud April Pyron for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

April Pyron is a student at Arvada K–8 School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by April Pyron is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to April Pyron for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

IN RECOGNITION OF CHRISTOPHER THOMAS FOR HIS SERVICE AS MICHIGAN'S DIRECTOR OF ELECTIONS

**HON. DEBBIE DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 15, 2017*

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Christopher Thomas for his distinguished service on behalf of the State of Michigan. As the state's Director of Elections for the past 36 years, Mr. Thomas has served Michigan voters well through his rigorous oversight of the state's electoral processes.

Mr. Thomas began his career in 1974 managing campaign finance regulations at U.S. House of Representatives and later moved to the Federal Election Commission, where he worked with candidates to ensure compliance with federal election laws. As a result of his performance, Mr. Thomas was appointed to be Michigan's Director of Elections in 1981 by Michigan Secretary of State Richard Austin. As Director of Elections, Mr. Thomas has overseen 1,600 clerks in counties, townships and cities across the state to run Michigan elections and work to staff and train workers. Throughout his time as director, Mr. Thomas has earned a reputation as an effective administrator who impartially handled Michigan's elections. He is also well-regarded among his peers, having served as president of the National Association of State Election Directors, a national forum that shares best practices on running accurate and transparent elections in 2013.

Mr. Thomas has been a model Director of Elections who has served the State of Michigan with distinction. Under his leadership, Michigan has successfully leveraged advances in technology to improve the functioning of our state's electoral processes. In addition, Mr. Thomas is well-known for his nonpartisan handling of elections and thorough knowledge of procedure and election law. He also served on

President Obama's Presidential Commission on Election Administration, which enabled him to utilize his decades of knowledge to improve the election experience for America's voters. He has been an outstanding leader during his career in election administration, and I wish him well as he retires after an extraordinary career serving Michigan.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. Christopher Thomas for his 36 years of public service as Michigan's Director of Elections and his leadership in the nation for ensuring fair elections throughout the country. Mr. Thomas's work has helped ensure the integrity and accessibility of Michigan's elections.

**PITTSBURGH PENGUINS STANLEY CUP VICTORY****HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 15, 2017*

Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I'm very excited to say congratulations, once again, to the Pittsburgh Penguins on winning the 2017 Stanley Cup.

For those of you who don't know, the Penguins also won the Stanley Cup last year—making them back-to-back champions. That hasn't been done since the late 1990s and since the salary cap was put in place. It was truly a historic achievement, and the City of Pittsburgh could not be more excited. This is the 5th Stanley Cup for the Penguins franchise.

Over the course of the season—and particularly the playoffs—the Penguins showed the grit, resiliency, and determination that is emblematic of the City of Pittsburgh. They battled through injury after injury, tough games, hostile arenas, changing rosters—you name it, they faced it. And yet they came out on top every time.

Throughout the course of the playoffs, they bested the Columbus Blue Jackets in the first round, winning handily in a 4–1 series. Next, they came here to D.C. and faced the No. 1-seed Washington Capitals. Well, for the ninth time in 10 playoff matchups, the Pens defeated the Capitals in a brutal 7-game series that also (temporarily) knocked out our Captain, Sidney Crosby. But the thing about Pittsburgh—and the Pens—is that a knock-out punch just won't keep us down for long. They moved right along and trucked through the Ottawa Senators 4–2 to make it back to the Stanley Cup Finals for the second year in a row.

Now, I would like to congratulate the Nashville Predators on a magical run through the playoffs and a hard-fought final series. But ultimately, it wasn't enough to overcome the Penguins' skill, experience, hustle, and determination.

In a riveting Game 6, neither team had scored a goal and the end of regulation was quickly approaching. With only 95 seconds left on the clock, Patric Hornqvist managed to use the Predator's goalie himself to get the puck in the net. Left with few options, the Preds had to pull their goalie which allowed the Penguins to get an empty-net goal with seconds remaining. It was the perfect end to a historic season.

I would particularly like to congratulate Sidney Crosby on winning his second back-to-back Conn Smythe Trophy, one of only three players ever to do so. The last player to win back-to-back? The Pens very own Mario Lemieux.

The City of Pittsburgh is welcoming home another championship trophy, and for that I would like to once again thank and congratulate the 2017 Stanley Cup Champion Pittsburgh Penguins. Welcome back to Pittsburgh, Lord Stanley.

**RED ROCKS COMMUNITY COLLEGE INNOVATION CHALLENGE****HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 15, 2017*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the team from Red Rocks Community College on becoming a finalist for a third year in a row in the National Science Foundation's Community College Innovation Challenge. This program serves as an innovative way for community college students to partner with local industries to create pioneering STEM-based solutions for real world issues. The Community College Innovation Challenge is an important example of encouraging STEM education and research for our nation's students and future leaders. I congratulate all of the competition's participants for their work on a variety of important projects.

The Red Rocks team tackled the important issue of practical cyber workforce training. By creating a cyber-lab learning environment, students can expand real-world skills in practical work situations in a safer and more controlled environment. This project demonstrates how we can enhance classroom learning by allowing students to apply their skills in real-world situations and be better prepared for the skills and tasks necessary in the workforce.

I congratulate the Red Rocks Team of Bill Cherrington, Isaac Kerley, Joseph Murdock, Bruno Salvatico and John Sanchez for their success. I applaud this group for their dedication to this important project and their leadership and commitment to STEM education blazing a path for our country's future leaders and innovators. I am proud of the work Red Rocks Community College does every day and I look forward to seeing what the school and these students accomplish in the years to come.

**HONORING SERVICE ACADEMY STUDENTS****HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 15, 2017*

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend heartfelt congratulations to Karrington Evans, John Paul Post of Altus, Randall Parker Ross of Hot Springs, Katie Welch of Percy, Briston Yarbrough of Danville. These star students from the Fourth District of Arkansas will have the honor of attending the service academies this Fall.